
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

TEXT: *Colossians 3:1-17 KJV*

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (5) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (6) For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: (7) In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. (8) But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. (9) Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; (10) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (11) Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. (12) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (13) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (14) And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (17) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

INTRO: *Truly Prepared*

The true believer is united with Christ in a union which can never be broken. He is justified, sanctified and yet to be glorified. It is his business to be

heavenly minded, making heaven his scope and aim, and proclaiming to those about him, his expectations for heaven, and the return of Christ.

The believer's eternal standing is in Christ. Since we were united to Him, we are reckoned to have died when He died, risen when He ascended, been seated in heaven when He was seated, and as yet to appear with Him when He comes forth in glory.

So how do we live this Citizen Life?

I. *The True Believer's Position*

(1) ***If ye then be risen with Christ***

IN Christ – **RISEN** with Christ – **SEATED** With Christ in the Heavenly Places

Ephesians 1:3-14 KJV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings **in heavenly places in Christ**: (4) According as he hath **chosen us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.** (7) **In whom we have redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (8) Wherein **he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;** (9) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath **purposed in himself**: (10) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times **he might gather together in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even **in him**: (11) **In whom also we have obtained an inheritance**, **being predestinated according to the purpose of him** who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be **to the praise of his glory**, who first trusted in Christ. (13) **In whom ye also trusted**, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:

in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

II. *The True Believer's Passion*

Colossians 3:1 KJV

If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God**.

(1b) ***seek those things which are above***

(2) ***Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

(4) ***When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory***

III. *The True Believer's Promise*

Colossians 3:4 KJV

When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, *then shall ye also appear with him in glory*.

That is all good but now we come to ...

IV. *The True Believer's Preparation*

Colossians 3:5-10 KJV

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (6) For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: (7) In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. (8) But now ye also put

off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. (9) Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; (10) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Mortify = PUT TO DEATH

FORNICATION = *any type of sexual arousal that cannot be righteously satisfied*

Pre-marital – Extra-Marital – Homosexuality -- Lesbianism – Pornography --

UNCLEANNESS = *Foulness; dirtiness; filthiness. – Lack of ritual or ceremonial purity. – Moral impurity; defilement by sin; sinfulness. – Lewdness*

INORDINATE AFFECTION = unruly affection – uncontrolled or depraved passions
Anything that takes our passion away from God

EVIL CONCUPISCENCE = *the lusting of carnal things, or an irregular appetite for worldly goods; inclination for unlawful enjoyments*

COVETOUSNESS = *A strong or inordinate desire of obtaining and possessing some supposed good; usually in a bad sense, and applied to an inordinate desire of wealth*

Mortify = PUT TO DEATH

Colossians 3:8-10 KJV

But now ye also put off all these; **anger**, **wrath**, **malice**, **blasphemy**, **filthy communication** out of your mouth. (9) **Lie not** one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; (10) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

THE EAGLE

The Scottish preacher John McNeill liked to tell about an eagle that had been captured when it was quite young. The farmer who snared the bird put a restraint on it so it couldn't fly, and then he turned it loose to roam in the barnyard. It wasn't long till the eagle began to act like the chickens, scratching and pecking at the ground. This bird that once soared high in the heavens seemed satisfied to live the barnyard life of the lowly hen.

One day the farmer was visited by a shepherd who came down from the mountains where the eagles lived. Seeing the eagle, the shepherd said to the farmer, "What a shame to keep that bird hobbled here in your barnyard! Why don't you let it go?" The farmer agreed, so they cut off the restraint. But the eagle continued to wander around, scratching and pecking as before. The shepherd picked it up and set it on a high stone wall. For the first time in months, the eagle saw the grand expanse of blue sky and the glowing sun. Then it spread its wings and with a leap soared off into a tremendous spiral flight, up and up and up. At last it was acting like an eagle again.

Perhaps you have let yourself be comfortable in the barnyard of the world—refusing to claim your lofty position as God's child. He wants you to live in a higher realm. Confess your sins, and "seek those things which are above." You will soon be longing to rise above the mundane things of this world. Like the eagle, it's not too late to soar to greater heights again. – P R Van Gorder

"I AM FULLY PREPARED TO DIE!" ARE YOU?

We must not leave our text without looking back at verse6…

IV. *THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE'S PROPHESIED PLAGUES*

Colossians 3:6 KJV

For which things' sake ***the wrath of God cometh*** | ***on the children of disobedience***:

Revelation 16:1-14 KJV

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. (2) And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. (3) And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. (4) And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. (5) And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. (6) For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. (7) And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. (8) And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. (9) And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. (10) And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, (11) And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. (12) And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. (13) And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (14) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.